

This letter may be used publicly.

I have seen the meetings you have held and know you have many options to consider in these next few weeks.. the one constant denominator in ALL your choices is the Human investment in a highly trained technician staff here at KSC and other sites. We have seen the numbers for all these projects, they are big.. but no one has tried to put a number, or a price tag on the cost to develop the people on the ground that make this all work in the first place..

Sure it's been discussed as a problem.. but not really understood... as there is no price that can be placed on such an investment.. it has to be in the billions of dollars worth of learning through trial and errors, process improvements and working through tough problems on a real time basis.. All these scenarios were paid for by tax dollars and are learned by the folks here on the ground at KSC... the loss of these experiences will be felt for decades to come.. and come at a new cost of the learning curve... something that can be almost entirely avoided if you can find a way to keep not only the engineers but the real folks that actually do the work.. the Tech's, the expeditors etc.. All the messages to date seem to imply saving the "highly" paid engineering folks.. they of course are very valuable.. but they don't do the work.. they write the work to be done, we provide constant feedback and present problems for them to solve.. our managers have Hugh value as well, in many cases they came up through the ranks of workers and present the very best of the knowledge base...

Currently here at KSC, all this will be lost.. gone.. forever discarded to the delete file, an awful toll bordering on negligence by the government to ignore such an investment in human wealth...

One thing I would hope you will **high recommend** to the president is to preserve the current workforce so we can not only do the work of the new program direction and apply all this experience, but also to share and teach the new younger people that will come to the programs of the future.. this in my opinion, is a HUGH benefit to the future of our manned space program and presents a savings of countless Billions of dollars of which is incalculable in dollars and lives and time savings.

In closing.. all of here at KSC understand that things need to change and we need to move on with space flights direction, however, you MUST consider the investment in the human staff which has been paid for over the past 40 years, it exists here and now to operate the new programs and then handover our experience to the next generations of workers here.. to allow most of us to be discarded and torn down like old excess hardware will be a terrible loss and expense to the future programs that will be look back on with a Hugh question mark, Why did they do that?

Thank you for reading, I hope you factor in a way to keep all of us employed here at KSC by showing today's youth that they too, can make a career in the space program, doing so without the fear we face today, that they will be thrown out as it appears their parents will be as of this date, August 6th 2009 ..

Sincerely,

Craig Horton
Titusville, FL